



## News Release

Medicine Bow-Routt National Forests &  
Thunder Basin National Grassland  
<http://fs.usda.gov/mbf>

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### **Camping Limited this Memorial Day Weekend, Roads Closed**

**(LARAMIE, Wyo.) May 25, 2011** – Due to record snowpack and continuing precipitation, Memorial Day camping opportunities will be scarce on the Medicine Bow National Forest, and unsafe conditions for public travel has prompted an extension of road closures on the eastern side of the Snowy Range.

“We want the public to be able to enjoy their lands, however, the weather and remaining snowpack of over 200 percent is limiting our options this year” said Phil Cruz, Forest Supervisor for the Medicine Bow-Routt National Forests. “There simply are very few recreation areas on the forest that can be used at this time. The roads and recreation areas will be opened as soon as is safely possible.

“Public safety is our first concern, followed closely by protection of natural resources.

“Most Sierra Madre and Snowy Range roads are still closed due to snow, while others are slick, muddy, flooded and dangerous to travel on.

“On the eastern side of the Snowy Range and in coordination with Albany County, we’ve decided to keep the roads closed until weather allows for safe travel that doesn’t damage roads and trails.”

The public is asked to respect the road closures and not endanger themselves or cause road damage by driving around gates, barricades or through snowbanks.

Temperatures have remained cool all spring, which has delayed snow melt. With warm weather predicted for the weekend, there is potential for flooding and landslides.

Those wanting to recreate outdoors over the upcoming holiday weekend can head to the Laramie Peak and Pole Mountain areas of the Medicine Bow National Forest. The Thunder Basin National Grassland is also accessible. Visitors may want to check with Wyoming State Parks or the Bureau of Land Management for lower elevation opportunities.

Check with local Chamber of Commerce for other options, since many mountain communities plan special events for Memorial Day.

Prior to visiting forest or grassland areas, please obtain a Motor Vehicle Use Map from the nearest Ranger District to verify which roads are open to travel on. Also, please keep in mind that due to recent wet weather visitors could encounter very muddy road conditions, even on roads that are open.

French Creek and Six Mile are the only campgrounds that are currently accessible on the Brush Creek/Hayden Ranger District, whose office is in Saratoga. French Creek can be accessed from State Hwy. 230 south of Encampment. Six Mile Campground will have water available for users beginning this weekend.

Vedauwoo Campground will be open on the Laramie Ranger District; all other campgrounds are still closed due to snow and hazard tree work. Many roads are still under seasonal closure orders in the Pole Mountain area, so please be aware of that signage. The Fox Creek (FSR 311A) Road, will be the only open road on the eastern side of the Snowy Range.

On the Laramie Peak Unit of the Douglas Ranger district, conditions are such that Friend Park Campground and Campbell Creek Campground are inaccessible for Memorial Day weekend. The public should not use roads in these areas due to their poor condition.

Esterbrook Campground and Curtis Gulch Campground will be open this weekend on time for the holiday.

Dispersed camping opportunities will also be limited to lower elevations in most areas.

Contact the Brush Creek/Hayden Ranger District at 307-326-5258, Laramie Ranger District at 307-745-2300 or Douglas Ranger District at 307-358-4690, for current campground and road conditions, or visit [www.fs.fed.us/r2/mbr](http://www.fs.fed.us/r2/mbr).

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